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Cabinet clears early warning system in coastal districts

BENGALURU, DHNS

In an effort to put in place effective disaster management mechanism, the Cabinet on Thursday is learned to have given administrative approval for the implementation of the Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS) at a cost of Rs 26.92 crore.

The EWDS, which will be put in place in Uttara Kannada, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts is part of the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP).

According to the Karnataka State Disaster Management Plan, the EWDS aims to disseminate information to peo-

ple living in vulnerable areas along the state's coastline. The idea is to warn them in advance before a cyclone hits the coast and to ensure that those living in the vicinity are moved to a safer place.

The project also makes a provision for multi-purpose cyclone shelters to be built along the coastline. Messages could be disseminated through siren towers, mass messaging, digital mobile radios among other communication technology.

Bhagyalakshmi scheme redesigned

The Cabinet is also said to have decided to redesign the Bhagyalakshmi scheme and imple-

ment it with the help of India Post instead of Life Insurance Corporation.

The scheme, which was initiated in 2006-07, is intended to increase the girl child ratio in the state.

The government will deposit money annually in the names of the girl children from registered BPL families for a period of 15 years.

The girls can withdraw the amount upon completing 21 years and they will receive an amount of Rs 1.27 lakh upon the bond maturity.

"The LIC expressed its inability to pay up the money upon completion of the stipulated period. Also, the interest rates

of LIC have fallen. Hence, the government decided to make this switch," a source in the women and child welfare department said.

Further, to mitigate the menace of ponzi schemes, the Cabinet approved the 'Karnataka Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Rules 2020'. This follows the notification of the 'Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Rules 2020' by the Centre earlier this year.

The Centre had introduced a Bill in this regard in 2019, with an aim to curtail ponzi schemes.

Karnataka was witness to unravelling of the multicore IMA scam last year.